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BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
April 10, 2018
Council Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified & notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnwell County Council met for their regularly scheduled Council meeting on April 10, 2018 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman Lowell Jowers Sr., Vice Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Don Harper, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman David Kenner, Administrator Tim Bennett, County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were architect Lee Dorn, Attorney Steve Matthews, Dr. William Molnar and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2018 Council meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Numerous citizens expressed their enthusiasm and support for the Rodeo Arena saying that it would boost the economy and would provide a facility for equestrian events, 4H programs, rodeos, trade shows, concerts and numerous other events.

Rodeo Arena

Lee Dorn said his architectural firm, Laschober & Associates, had been contacted regarding designing a facility in Barnwell. The desire was to have a multipurpose facility that could be used for equestrian events and a wide range of other programs for the entire community. With that in mind, the layout for phase I of the project would house several multipurpose buildings and a large parking area which could accommodate concerts, various craft and trade shows. Councilman Creech moved for Council's support of the Recreation Committee proceeding with the project. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Houston said he wanted to reiterate that Council had said the project would be at no tax cost to the citizens. Councilman Buckmon said the logistics of public and private funds needed to be worked out, but that it could be done. Councilman Kenner said there had previously been discussion on a public/private partnership with the Recreation Committee whose members had been appointed by Council and asked for clarification on the motion. Councilman Creech said the motion was for Council's support of the Recreation Committee pursuing the project. The motion passed.

Lower Savannah Council of Governments

Dr. Molnar said the LSCOG served Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties in its involvement in community development block grant activities, local and regional planning, economic development, workforce development, thoroughbred tourism activities, and many other programs. There would be a job fair on April 11th and during the Summer, a 2018 Youth Jumpstart Program would teach youth basic job expectations.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Bennett expressed his appreciation to former County Administrator Pickens Williams Jr. for his help in transitioning to the new position and to Council members for touring each of their districts with him. He also thanked the department heads he had met with, as well as Business Manager Debbie Fickling, Clerk to Council Kim Futrell and Finance Director Maria Williams for helping him in the transition.

Financial Update

Administrator Bennett said the financial report listed revenues through December and expenditures through February. Councilman Houston said over the years Council had discussed having compatible software in the Treasurer's Office and the Finance Department so that reports could be concurrent. He suggested that Council begin moving forward with that. Administrator Bennett said that both the Treasurer's Office and the Finance Department were supportive of using compatible software and that he had been in touch with QS1 to walk through a proposal.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Reappointed to Axis 1 for District 1
Reappointed to Planning Commission for District 1
Appointed to Recreation Board for District 1
Appointed to Recreation Board for District 3
Appointed to Recreation Board for District 4
Appointed to Recreation Board for District 5

Chantane Mason Tobin
Anthony Green
Pickens Williams Jr.
Richard Boatwright
Robert Clayton Collins
William Nix

Government, Science/Tech. & Regulatory Matters, Transportation, Safety, Finance, Housing, Judicial, Safety, Services, Health Care, EDC, and Personnel - No reports were given.

Finance

Councilman Houston moved to have Administrator Bennett follow up with QS1 to receive a proposal on compatible financial software and to report back to Council. Vice Chairman Kinlaw seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Modify and Amend the Barnwell Recreation Commission Ord. 2002-169

This ordinance was read in name only.

1st Reading of FY 18-19 Budget Ordinance

This ordinance as read in name only.

A motion was made to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Executive Session

No action was taken in Executive Session.

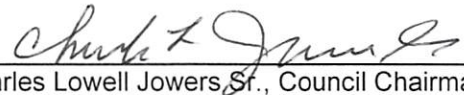
Open Session

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



Charles Lowell Jowers, Sr., Council Chairman